under the control of Ministry of Mines and the sole producer of primary copper in the country has its Malanjkhand Copper Project in the Birsa Revenue Circle of Baihar Tehsil, Balaghat District of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Malanjkhand Copper Project consists of an Open Pit Mine with an annual production of 2 million tonnes of copper ore and a matching concentrator plant located very close to the mines.

(c) A proposal to examine feasibility of enhancing the present production from 2 million tonnes to 3 million tonnes with necessary augmentation in the existing concentrator plant is being considered by the Company.

(d) 184 employees are in the Executive cadre and the remaining 1545 employees in Groups B,C, and D are mostly employed from local areas in and around Malanjkhand Copper Project.

(e) and (f) Transportation of raw material extracted from the mines is being done by Hindustan Copper Limited through Rail and Road transport.

Reclamation of Barren Land

1367. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government for reclamation of barren land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government manaure which was to be provided to farmers for reclamation of barren land in Uttar Pradesh has not been provided so far; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the manure is proposed to be provided to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (d) As per definition contained in land utilisation Statistics, "Barren Lands" are mountainous, rocky and inhospitable areas which cannot be reclaimed at an economic cost. Thus, no scheme has been formulated for reclamation of Barren Land.

Allotment of Houses in Kanpur under Indira Awas Yojana

1368. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economically poor villagers living below poverty line in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Kanpur have not got allotment of houses under the Indira Awas Yojana and the Central norms are being violated with impunity by opening files to provide loans to uneligible persons for the construction of houses;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ordered any inquiry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken against the guilty persons and to check reccurance of such activities in the future?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hill Allowance

1369. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Postal and Telecom employees working in the remote hilly tribal areas in Maharashtra have demanded special allowance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(i) Postal Employees working in Tribal Areas of Dahanu in Thane District, Deori and Sadak Arjuri in Nagpur District., Pandharkawada in Wardha District and Chinchiroli in Chandrapur District have demanded Tribal Area Allowance.

(b) Telecom Employees working in Tribal Areas of Nasik District have demanded the Adivasi Upyojana Kshetra Protesahan Bhatta as applicable to the State Government Employees.

(c) The Postal and Telecom Department are not authorised to sanction Tribal Area Allowance. The cases relating to Postal Department are under correspondence with the field units for additional information. The Department of Telecom has sent the case to Department of Personnel for further examination.

[English]

Pancheswar Hydro Electric Project

1370. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether negotiations are in progress between India and Nepal for setting up the Pancheswar Hydro Electric Project on the Mahakali river in Nepal;

(b) if so, the proposed capacity of the project and total investment inclusive of investment in associated transmission network;

(c) sources of funds for the investment outlays;